



Our Reference: UMJ-101-A (UM 1476)

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Peter X. Ma
Serial Number: 09/255,963
Filing Date: February 23, 1999
Examiner/Art Group Unit: Carrie Stroup/1633
Title: THREE-DIMENSIONAL
HYDROGEL/CELL SYSTEM

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AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Office Action dated September 11, 2000 has been received and carefully reviewed. Please amend the above-identified patent application as indicated below.

In the claims:

- 1 *sub C2* 1. (Twice Amended) A method comprising the
2 steps of:
3 mixing an alginate salt and a source of calcium
4 ions to provide a mixture; [and]
5 adding a calcium releasing compound to the
6 mixture to provide a three-dimensional crosslinked
7 hydrogel system; and
8 selectively controlling the hydrogel system to
9 a predetermined size by varying a calcium ion
10 concentration of a medium into which the hydrogel system
11 is introduced.
- 1 2. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 1,
2 further comprising the step of culturing the three-
3 dimensional crosslinked hydrogel system in the medium for
4 growing cells in vitro.

- 1 *sub C2* 11. (Twice Amended) A method for tissue
2 engineering in vitro, the method comprising the steps of: